Chairperson Alice Summerour called the, called the 54th meeting of the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. on July 16, 2015, in the Board of Commissioners conference room.

As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2015, meeting. Motion was made and seconded, minutes were approved unanimously.

Daniel Weller from the Finance Department gave the monthly financial report. Total collections to-date are $450 million which is $32.6 million over projections. Cash on hand is currently $50 million, and investments total $90 million.

Mr. Brian Bulthuis, City of Acworth, City Manager, gave an update on the City’s 2005 and 2011 SPLOST programs. All the 2005 SPLOST projects are primarily done – only 1 project is left, the Main Street Improvements, this project has a TE Grant and the City is waiting on GDOT to release the funds. Several projects were cut due to reduction of funds - McClain Street West and East and SR92/Lake Acworth. Original 2005 SPLOST budget was $14.4 million and after reduction was $10.4 million – actual spent $10.3 million.

Mr. Bulthuis went on to discuss various projects in the 2011 SPLOST which are complete or underway. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming Silent Crossings project, this is high priority with five railroad crossings involved. Quad gates will be installed at the crossings so cars cannot cross the tracks or go around the gates, in turn the train does not blow its horn. The trains will actually be able to communicate with the gates. Acworth has between 30-50 trains/day. There is a grant from GDOT and the matching funds have been sent to GDOT. GDOT and CSX will administer the project.
Revised 2011 budget is higher than original SPLOST budget, $12.2 million has been collected to date and $14 million is the projected new budget.

Discussion held regarding the completed School Street project and the new $15M senior living development, which is due in part to the road improvements.

Ms. Pam Conner, City Manager for Powder Springs, along with Buddy Allison from Croy Engineering, presented an update to the 2011 SPLOST program. The City has spent $1 million dollars on resurfacing. Pine Grove Drive was a joint resurfacing project with the County DOT.

Another joint project, with Cobb Parks, is the new Seven Springs Water Park, which Parks discussed later in the meeting.

Other projects completed were ADA improvements, Senior Center renovation, Linear Park playground and restroom facilities, along with additional improvements to come, such as adult exercise stations, etc.

Mr. John Reida, Director, Property Management was up next with an update on facility improvements. Property management has $18.1 million in the 2011 SPLOST program with 135 projects. Currently, 122 projects are complete or underway. The final seven projects are underway, which leave six projects remaining. Of these six projects, three are library projects. The two projects for roof replacement and HVAC upgrades at East Marietta Library will not be done as the existing building is going to be demolished. Funding will be utilized in the new 2016 SPLOST for the new East Marietta library. The Kennesaw Library Renovations will not be done as the new Kennesaw/Acworth Library building in the 2016 SPLOST will replace it. Two additional Health Department circulation desk renovations (East Cobb and South Cobb locations) are no longer needed and will not be done, per health department management.

One additional project associated with the anticipated new State Court Judgeship will be accomplished once the new judge has been appointed.

Tom Bills, Program Manager, gave the update for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts department. Of the $83.5 million in the 2011 SPLOST Parks program, 61% of the projects are complete and 24% under construction. There are 172 projects in 50 parks.

Tom Bills gave an update on the various parks projects that had been completed.

The $5.1 million Civic Center renovation is underway. The renovations include a catering kitchen, new entrance way, meeting rooms and data connectivity. Completion is anticipated to be February/March 2016.

The new water park in Powder Springs, now known as Seven Springs Parks, opened in May and has been a huge success. Over 26,000 people have enjoyed the park since its opening. Capacity is 800 at a time, but has been cut back to 600. Fees should pay cover operational costs, maybe even make money. Construction costs were $3 $ million. Park is located on 4 acres.

Eddie Canon, Director, Parks, mentioned most of the parks were created in the 1960’s and 70’s. with the SPLOST program every park, if not totally renovated, has something new. Once the 2016 SPLOST program is completed the County will have a brand new park system.
Jim Wilgus, Deputy Director, DOT, gave the 2011 SPLOST update for transportation. DOT’s program is 60% complete with 31 projects currently under construction and 51 in the design phase.

The Windy Hill Road projects are well underway and traffic is now an issue during the day. Next month, DOT will roll out a new app, Cobb Commute, which will give real time travel data, road closures, detours, etc. This should help citizens avoid the construction areas where traffic is a concern.

Jim gave an update to the various projects underway. Discussion was held regarding the Cobb Parkway and Watts Drive project which consisted of the addition of left turn lane. This was a State Quick Response project. If project is less than $200k and is a safety improvements project, GDOT selects qualifying projects and provides the funding, so no SPLOST dollars were required for this project.

There are currently five resurfacing contracts on-going for a total of $85 million and 1,311 roads for a total of 413 miles in the 2011 SPLOST. DOT prepares for resurfacing projects a year in advance and coordinates with the water system and their projects so new pavement that’s just been resurfaced is not being patched over.

Discussion was held regarding the Cumberland traffic issues and the various directions Braves’ traffic will be coming into the area. The County’s also has an agreement with City of Smyrna to take control of traffic signals during events, to assist with moving traffic through the area.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.